THE BOOKE OF Pretty Conceits;

Taken out of Latine, French, *Dutch and English.*

Very merry, and very pleasant and good to bee read of all such as doe delight in new and merry Conceits.

Newly inlarged, corrected, and amended.

LONDON
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To the Reader.

WHo ſo is bound for another mans debt,
doth bring himſelfe in care:
And is compeld to pay the ſame,
though he be poore and bare.
In euery degree loue honeſty,
be ſhamefac'd to doe euill:
Ill company ſee that thou fly,
as members of the Deuill.

A word once ſpoke it can returne no more,
But flies away, and oft thy bane doth breed,
A wiſeman ſets a hatch before the doore,
And whilſt he may doth frame his words (with heed.
The bird in hand we may at will reſtraine,
But being flown we call her back in vaine.

An easie way to procure Fire speedily.

TAke a round Glasse, and fill it with faire water, and set it against the Sun, so that it may stand fast: then take something that is very dry and hold it nere the Glasse, (betweene the glasse and the Sun) and it will set the thing so holden on fire: which is very strange to behold, the rather, because Fire which is an hot and dry Element, is procured out of Water, which is a cold and moist Element.

A speedy remedy for the pricke of a thorne in ones foot, or else-where.

TAke the Gall of a beast, chaulk scraped, Honey and Aquivite, of each of them a reasonable quantity, & boile them well together, then make a plaister thereof, & lay it to the place grieved as hot as may be suffered. Another way to draw out any Thorne, stub, or Iron, in any place whatsoeuer.

TAke the gal of an hog, beane flowre, Lauender, and Bacon-grease, and mingle

thole well together, and fry them well & lay the same to the place grieued like warme, do it euery day till it be come forth and whole.

Another way to draw out a thorne.

Take barke of Hawthorne tree and stamp it well in a morter with red wine, and seeth them well for a long time, and then take it and lay it plaister wise to the place grieued, as hot as the patient may suffer it, and it will take away the swelling and rankling of it, and then the thorne will come forth.

To light a Candle at the mouth of an Image painted on the wall.

Take & put some Brimstone to the mouth of an Image, & then take a burning candle and blow it out: and before the smoke of the candle be clean out, set it to the mouth of the Image and it will burne. So you may do, if you thinke good against Glasse.

To take fish by night.

Take a Lanterne of glasse, and put a burning candle in it, and set the Lantern on the water, and the fish will come to the light. Or else take Nettles and Poulcke, and make juice thereof, and put it into a Pond, and all the fishes will gather thither, & if your hands be annointed therewith, you may at your pleasure take them.

To make that no Dog shall Barke at you.

Take an hearbe that is called Serpentine, and they shall not barke at you.

To make Birds come to your Culuer-house.

Cast Barly steeped in Honey where they doe vse to feed, and they will gather to the Culuer-house.

To put an Apple into a Viall.

Hang the viall on the twig of an Appletree and put a young Apple in the mouth of the Viall, and it will grow therein, and so you may doe with grapes and other fruit.

To put an Egge into a Viall.

Steepe the Egge two daies and two nights in vineger, and rowle it on a table softly, and it will stretch as war, and then you may put it in the Viall, or draw it through a ring.

To make folke seeme blacke.

Put Oyle Olive into a Lampe, and put therein fine powder of ground glasse, & light it, and all those that bee about it will seeme blake as Egyptians.

To proue if a Maiden be cleare.

Burne Mother-wort, and let her take the smoake at her nose, and if she be corrupt she shall pisse, or else not. Other wise take gray

petties white that they be greene, and then let her pisse on them, and if she be no Whore they will wither forthwith, or else not.

To keepe Inke from freezing.

Take Aquavite and mixe it with writing Inke, and the same will never freeze,

To write a letter with such Inke as cannot be perceiued, vnlesse it be holden before the fire.

Take a sheet of fair white paper, and write thereon with the iuice of a red Onion, well mixed or temperd with the white of an egge and then dry it well, and then it cannot be perceiued to be any other then plaine white paper without any writing on it: but if you hold it betwixt you and the fire, you may the more easily read it, and perfectly perceiue the letters or contents thereof.

Another way to write Letters that cannot be read but in this sort.

Take Allom and beat it into fine powder, and then put it into faire water, and whatsoeuer you write therewith, neither that writing nor letters will appeare, except you put the said paper in water and then you may read it perfectly.

To cause a dog to cease barking

Take a Dogges tongue and lay it vnder your

your great Net (within your time) into the way, untaste barking as long as you keepe the same.

To cause a Pike to follow one.

Take the iuice of Mugwort, and the iuice of red Fennell, of each of them a little quantity, and the crumes of Rye-bread, and mingle them together with a good quantity of Sal armoniake, & grinde them well together and scrape a good quantity of Asaphetida to them, and then rub your line next the hooke very well therewith.

An easie way to take Eeles.

Make new Hay that is sweet, and make a bottle thereof, and as you make it vp, shake vpon it some new Calues blood, with the liuer dryed therein, & for want of calues blood take the blood of a Bull, Ore or Cow, with the liuer as aforesaid, and then bind vp your bottle as hard as you can with some ropes of the same Hay, & cast it into a riuer or pond where Eeles are, so tie it to a cord to pull it vp at your owne pleasure againe. Note, the chiefest time for the taking of Eeles and other running fish, is at the dark of the moon, in the beginning of May, at the shoting of Oats, and in the moneth of September and October, when all waters turne whits after

and in the iuice of hearb Wormet and Hen-
bane, and they cast them to the birds, and
many as doe eate thereof will be so amaz-
that they cannot fly away,

To take birds

Put Barley in the iuice of Rue and Hem-
ger, and cast it there as the Birds doe haun
or come, and as soone as they haue eaten
they cannot flie, and then ye may take them.

To make silke wormes.

Take the braine of a Calfe, and put it into a
pit of Pudder, and let it lye three weekes, and
they will breed of the braine, and ye may feed
them with Mulberies, and Mulbery leaues.

To take away hayres

Annoint the rough place that is shauen,
with the blood of a blacke Otter, and hayre
shall neuer grow there.

To fat Hens and Capons.

Make a deepe pit in the earth, and make
therein a bed of Dung, and a bed of Nettles,
and do so till it be full, and there keepe your
Pullen till the herbes begin to grow, and
then let them out, and within a short while
they will be very fat.

Certaine notes to be obserued
in Fishing. viz.

In the Spring time of the yeare when fish

doe

to give themselues to the act of generation, take some of the little kinds of Fish from some muddy or filthy Pole, into a very large Basket, wherewith you may draw them by a small and easie Lampe, made and wrought in the bottome of a cleane glasse with clay, and seal it with Pyle, but the glasse must be vented with some device of a Trunke of Swans quill, and you shall see great ranks of fish gather into the nets, make your tilts for savouring of the same, if you can get no strange fish, then tye in the middest of your net either some mother of pearle, or else some faire Oyster shel, or for want of them make a posie of diuers colored flowers, and smeere them well with Parmasity, mixt with the yolke of a new laid Egge and so vse it: but when you are disposed to make trial of these things, let it be in your owne Pond, wherby it may be performed at pleasure: this last receipt will draw a Pickrell into a lowne, in the end of Aprill or May.

An easie way to take a Pickerell.

Take a Pickrel immediatly after shee hath spawn, then take the white of 3 or 4 Eggs, and beat them into an oyle, and put thereto some Parmasity well braised, & incorporate them together, as a dow paste: and then make

a

a flouds: and for want of hay take Otters, and serth them in blood as a fayesaid, and make your purpose therewith.

Another way to take Eeles.

Take a good long wisp of hay and make it hard vp, & boile the same well in new calues blood, and then put it into the middest of a bigger trusse of new hay, the same being hard made vp with the curdled blood, & sours of the liuer. Make ten or twelue of the bundles, and lay them nere to the banke side in the deepest place of the riuer or pond, and put them a quoits cast asunder, in the darke night after a drought: and if the weather be somewhat inclined to raine, it will be the better: and put to your bundles either some shining night-wormes, or the pieces of some rotten wood, or the skinnes, of Herrings or Sprats, or else so much like shining things, whereby you may perceiue where to take them vp at your pleasure, as well in the night as in the day.

To know if a sicke person shall die, or not.

Take gray Nettles while they be greene and put them in the patients vrin, and if they remaine greene: he shall liue: and if they wither, not.

To

To make salt water fresh.

Take Clay, and put it into a bagge, and straine it through till it be cléere, and it will be fresh.

To kindle a candle at the Sunne.

Take a bright Bason, and put a new looking glasse therein, and set the Bason in the hottest of the Sunne, and lay about it very dry Tow chopped small, and the Tow will take fire with the heat of the Sunne.

To make a candle that it cannot be blowne out.

Take a quill of Hempe stalke, and fill it full with Brimstone, and make it warme, and fire it, and it will never goe forth with blowing.

To heale the biting of a mad dog.

Take white Nettles, and the innermost thin skin of a great red angry Onyon, with a little running water & honey, and bathe it.

To see by night as by day.

Annoint your eyes with the blood of a bat.

To make flesh cleave to the pot.

Take a wall of Nightshade and stampe it well, and put it in the pot with meate, and the meat will cleave together.

To take Birds quicke.

Take Pease and steepe them in wine lées, and

a paste with as many coloured flowers as you can get and smeare the paste with the aforesaid dough, and hang it in the midst of a Wide net, and put the Pickrell into the net also, then hang the net in some cléere place in the midst of a Pond or River, and so let it remaine there all night, and in the morning you shall see the experience thereof.

To take a Pickrell in Winter or Summer.

Take a grene Hearne in the full of the Mone, and take the marrow out of his leg, and put it into a Tinne Box, and when you list to take a Pickrell, bait your hooke either with a Roch, Dace, or Gudgion, & annoint the bait with the same Oyle, and you shall presently speed.

An easie way to take fish with ones hands.

Take Henbane, Wormwood and Vervine, and stampe them all together, and then hang the same in three Canuas bags, and put them in three severall places of the Pond, and all the fish will gather thereunto.

Another way.

Take Houseleeke and Nettle roots, of each of them a good quantity, and stamp & straine them, and then wash your hands in the juice thereof, and then poure it into the Pond, and

then

the fish will gather to the same place in such sort as you may take them up at your pleasure with your hands.

Another way.

Take an ounce of Honey, two ounces of Waxe, foure and twenty graines of Oculus Indiæ and two-penny-worth of Castor, stamp all these together in a morter, and make it in forme of a paste, and make it in small peices, and then cast them where the fish be, and you shall quickly speed.

Another way.

Take a Pewter Bason, and let it be made as bright as may be, and hold it toward the water, and the fish will come to the bright, inside of the Bason.

To take Roches.

Take Oculus Indiæ, Henbane séede, the yolke of an Egge, English Hony, and wheaten flowre, & mingle them all together, and make a paste thereof.

To take Tench both in March and Aprill.

Take small crummes of houshold bread moistned with tar, & cast the same into the water where you purpose to fish: then three nights after bait a large bolvnet with toasts of like bread well tarred and tyed fast in the midst of the net: & if you can get a breder or two

thereof of ranck fatte, and tie to the rod, you shall fee a rare contention.

That one shall not be drunke.

Drinke the iuyce of Perrow fasting, and ye shall not be drunke, for no drunke; and if you were drunke it will make you sober: or else take the marrow of pyke falling, and ye shall not be drunke, and if you be drunke anoint your priuie members in vinegre, and ye shall wake sober.

To make a good bait for fish at all times of the yeare.

Take wheat flowre and tallow of a new kilde sheepe, and the glaire of an Egge, and put them all together, and bait your hookes therewith.

To make an Egge goe vp to a Speares end.

Empty the Egge at a little hole, and fill it full of May dew, and stop the hole close with a little waxe & parchment glued, that the dew goe not out, then sticke a speare in the earth in the heat of the Sun, and lay the Egge by the speare, and it will mount vp to the top thereof by the heat of the Sun.

To make a candle burne in the water.

Take Turpine, Oile, Salt, Brimstone, quick siluer, Wax, and hony, and put them toge-

ther

ther milke a Candle thereof, and the same will burne in water.

To make flesh or fish seeme raw.

Take the blud of a Cat or a Kid, and dye it, and kepe it from the ayre, then cast it on fish or flesh that is hot and it will seeme raw.

To make wormes to seeme to be in meat.

Make Harp strings, and cut them in small pieces and cast them but on meat, and they will stir like wormes.

To make pottage run out of the pot.

Take and cast Sope in the pot, and it will run ouer.

A good Medicine for Poultry that haue the pip.

Take Rue and put it into their troughs of water, where the Poultry doe vse to drinke and the same will helpe them presently.

To kill hens and Ducks.

Cast them the seed of Henbane, and they will fall downe as they were dead.

Make powder of Saint Johns wort, and when that the coales are wasted, and the imbers out, cast it thereon and it will lie.

That a man shall not be weary of going.

Drinke the iuice of Mugwort, and beare the hearb it selfe about you, with the hearbs Betonie and Crowfoot.

Ano-

Take Spurrets and chop it small, and you shall not be hungry, neither shall there any loathsome spirit come near you, burning frankincense.

A present remedy to allwage both hunger and thirst.

Take the quantity of a walnut of Roch Allum (that is both fine and pure) and when you feele either hunger or thirst to oppresse you, put it into your mouth, and lock it for a little space, and bite it sometimes in the day, and it will presently allwage your hunger and thirst: bie this as often as need shall require, one penny-worth of Allum will serue almost a whole weeke.

To write without Inke.

Take fine white paper, and with the iuice of a red Onion, well mixed and tempered with the yolke of an Egge, you may write, which being very dry will shew as though it were onely plaine paper, without any writing at all; but if you hould it against the fire, you may then easily read it, and perceiue the letters.

Another way to cause writing not to be perceiued.

Take powder of Allome, and put into water,

[illegible] whatsoever you write therewith, neither the writing, nor the letters will appeare, except you put the same paper in water, and then you may read it perfectly.

To keepe Inke from freezing.

Take a little Aquavitæ (some seme drops) and mixe it with writing inke, and the same will never freeze at all.

A present remedie to destroy a Carbuncle.

Take Coriander seede, and beate it to powder, and mingle it with Honey, and make a plaister thereof, and lay it on the carbuncle or other grievous bites, and the same will speedily destroy them.

A ready and easie way to try whether a Maid be a pure Virgin or not.

Take roots of red Nettles, and stamp them small: and mixe the juice thereof, with Ale, and let her drinke thereof, and if it doe remaine with her, then she is a Maid, otherwise she is not.

To try if a woman (being with childe) be with child of a man-child or a woman-child

Take faire Well-water, and put it into a cleane basen, and let the woman with child milke a drop or two of her milke into the wa-

[illegible] to the bottome, [illegible] and if it [illegible] on the top [illegible] the water, then it is a woman child.

To make yarne and linnen cloth white.

Take a herring barrell, and fill it nigh full of good Ale-dregs, and stop it fast, but you must have a good dishfull of parched Beanes, and put them in a linnen bag, and very hot put them to the dregs till they coole, and shut it fast the space of a quarter of an houre, then take two pounds of Allom, grownd to small powder, and cast it thereon, and let it lye foure daies naturall, well closed, and then wash your yarne.

To make that a Horse may not goe through a street.

Take the guts of a Wolfe, and lay them overthwart the strát, and cover them with earth or sand, and he will not go that way as long as the guts covered lie there. Proved.

To take Conies with ones hand.

Take a Coney that is full of young Rabbets, and kill her, and put her all whole into a pottle of Oyle Olive, and put thereto some Asafetida, and so boile them together from a pottle to a pint, and then make a paire of Gloves of Calve-skins fit for your hands, and boile the Gloves in the same liquour with

[illegible] the coney, and let it [illegible] to a pinte, and when the gloues be [illegible] lees, let them bée kept vntill you come where store of Conies are; then put on thy gloues, and stand on the wind side of the conie-berries, and the conies will come forth to thée.

Another.

Take a quantity of Iuy-leaues, and lay them to stéep in Aquavitée for the space of three or foure daies, and then call the same leaues néere to the conie holes.

An easie way to catch Moales.

If you will catch Moales or Wants, take Garlicke, Lékes & Onyons, and put them in the mouth of the holes, or entrance into the ground where they are, and you shal sée them come leaping out of the ground as if they were amazed.

Another way to catch Moales.

Take the quantity of a Nut of Asafetida and two spoonfulls of cummin-séed, and beat them together into powder, & make dough with flower of it, then worke it well, and make it into bals as big as a peale, and then put them into the Moale-holes, in euery hole. But first scrape away the earth cleane from the holes; and the Moale will come forth of

[illegible] them well. Use [illegible] in the moneth of March when they goe a-cucketting.

To ripen Nuts.

Take Nuts at Midsommer, & deine them well in the ground, and cover them well, and they will be as ripe as those that you shall gather when they be ripe upon the tree.

To drive away Rats.

Take the hose of a Gen'o horse, sliced in pieces, and put it on a chafingdish of coales, and the very sent or smell thereof being well perfumed, will drive away all the Rats from the house.

Ad capiendum pisces.

Recipe luce Mullage, vel scolares tortes, collectum circa medium Maii quando Luna sit plena; distemperata comminge sape, serua in olla terrea, & quando vis occupare vnge manus tuas eclaud sita ni aqua, vel loco vbi sunt Pisces.

To take Rats.

Take a quicke Rat, and put her in a pot, and make a soft fire about it and under it. and when she feeleth the heat she will crye, and the Rats that heare her will come to helpe her, and then they may take them. And in like manner you may doe with moles.

To

To take Moles.

Take a couple of quicke Moles, and put them in a deepe pot, and set the pot in the earth to the brim, and when they cannot get out, they will peepe, and all the other Moles will come and fall into the pot to them.

To make a light for ever.

Take the wormes that shine commonly in the night, and gather the liquor of them, and mingle it with a quarter en of Quick-siluer, and put it in a Viall, and thē you shall see all the night long by it.

To put ones hand into any hot seething thing.

Anoint thy hands with hearbe Mercury, and put it in a seething thing, and it will doe thée no harme at all.

To kill Lice.

Make a good fire, and put Quicke-siluer therein, and hang the cloathes that are troubled with Lice ouer the fire in the smoake, and then assure your selfe no vermin will breed or come in them.

To kill Lice and Nects.

Take the powder or scraping of a Harts horne, and let the party that is troubled with them drinke often thereof, and there will neither Lice nor Nects breed eyther in his head

or

[illegible]. Also if you strew the same powder [illegible] upon his head, or on his cloathes, all the Lice and Nits will presently dye.

An easie way to kill Fleas.

Take the herbe Coriander and seeth it wel in water, and then sprinkle the same water in your Chambers and roomes, and it will destroy all the Fleas.

Another way.

Take Worm-wood and Rue, and stampe them together, then mingle them well with good wine, and put them all together in a linnen cloth, and rub all thy body well with it before thou goest to bed, and the Fleas will not come neere thee.

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